

2007

February

**Ants**



Ant bait station.



Scale insects excrete sugars that attract ants.

## Prevention and persistence are the keys to ant management.



**Prevent ants by sealing cracks.**

**Ant bait stations are good IPM.**

## FEBRUARY TIPS

### ANTS

*Use baits, not perimeter sprays. Early season baiting for ants is effective to keep ant populations from getting out of hand.*

- Identify common ants ([ucipm.ucdavis.edu/Tools/Antkey](http://ucipm.ucdavis.edu/Tools/Antkey)).

### Outside control (starting in February)

- Locate nests and apply baits.
- Baiting outside keeps ants outside, but sometimes it is necessary to bait inside; place bait inside only where ants are entering the room.
- Trim trees and eliminate access to buildings with caulking.

### Inside control (year round)

- Clean up ants with soapy water, especially peppermint soap (HSA exempt).
- Clean up food or items which may attract ants inside.
- Use sugar baits year round.

### OTHER PESTS

- **Gophers:** trap! Population activity is increasing, mating will begin by the end of month.
- **German cockroaches:** monitor kitchens, and bait if detected.
- **Ground squirrels:** breeding season is the best time to control.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	1	2	3

### RECORD OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

DATE

TASK

RESULTS

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2007

March

**Turf Weeds**



Water management is critical in spring.

## Proper care in spring results in turf that resists weed invasion all year.



Annual bluegrass seed head.



Healthy turf needs aeration.

### TIPS

#### SPRING TURF WEEDS

*This is a good time to apply slow release organic fertilizers as recommended by a soil analysis – avoid water-soluble fertilizers that can leach as nitrate into groundwater.*

- Monitor and identify weeds and record type and location.
- Control young weeds by hand pulling, hoeing or flaming.
- Aerate turf, de-thatch if needed, overseed with appropriate variety of grass seed.
- Avoid mowing stress: mow high (2.5-3 inches), mow often, mow when turf is dry, and keep mower blade sharp.
- Improve weed management by installing mowing strips, raising fencing to allow line trimmer access, repairing pavement cracks, and altering traffic patterns to reduce compaction.

#### OTHER PESTS

- **Ground squirrels:** control adults now before the young can support themselves.
- **Non-turf:** monitor emerging weed seedlings and control.
- **All weeds:** summer annuals are growing in Southern California and germinating in Central and Northern California. The best time to control is when they are still small.

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2007

April

**Yellowjackets**



Trap to monitor and reduce numbers.



Yellowjackets rely on sweets and protein

## Yellowjacket queens emerge from hibernation and begin building nests and laying eggs.



Nests are below ground.

Rinse recyclables.

### APRIL TIPS

#### YELLOWJACKETS

*Pay attention to yellowjackets in early spring to avoid a bigger problem later in summer and fall.*

- Put out lure or water traps to catch queens before they establish nests and rear more yellowjackets.
- Use protein-containing baits, such as cat food or turkey ham this month and throughout early spring. Switch to sugar-based traps in summer and fall.
- Locate yellowjacket nests during the day and then return in the evening to carefully remove nests.
- Place traps away from areas frequented by students.
- Empty and clean garbage containers and lids frequently.
- Wash out recyclable cans and bottles.

#### OTHER PESTS

- **Rats:** Remove vegetation near buildings that provide shelter and travel bridges.
- **Gopher:** Populations increasing! Continue trapping as needed.
- **Ants:** Switch outside baits to a sugar base.

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